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## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

## INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE:

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SUBJECT Soviet OB in Brandenburg

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letter of 16 October 1978 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
Chairman of the United States

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August 1947

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ORIGIN [REDACTED] SUPPLEMENT

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1. In late May, there were 10,000 infantry and armored troops in Karlshorst (Z-94); 12,000 infantry, armored, and artillery troops in Röpenick (Z-95); 2,000 infantry troops in Biesdorf (Z-95); and 1,200 unidentified troops in Kaulsdorf (Z-95), billeted in the Kraftwerk Klingenberg. Source adds that these were not specific divisions or regiments, but assorted units.

2. It is reported that an infantry division which left Rathenow (Z-15) in May was succeeded, at the end of that month, by a fully motorized artillery brigade. This unit, the troops of which are very young, is equipped with medium field artillery, except for one battalion of heavy field howitzers drawn by full-tracked prime movers. All equipment is closely guarded in an enclosed, wooded area east of Rathenow.

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Rathenow also has a large transient camp where troops returning to Russia are processed.

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a. On 18 May, 1,200 well equipped armored troops, aged about twenty-four, arrived in Döberitz from Krasnodar, USSR.

b. Also on 18 May, a thirty-two car train arrived at Michendorf (Z-62) with machine guns, hand flame throwers, AT rockets, and assorted ammunition.

c. On 1 June, a large rail transport of T-34 tanks was unloaded (presumably at Michendorf). A total of 707 tanks, all new,

The shipment also included fifty trucks, equipped with four-barreled AA machine guns

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as well as thirty-two field howitzers of medium caliber drawn by full-tracked prime movers.

d. Troops accompanying the above equipment numbered approximately 4,000. They were in the age group nineteen to twenty-four and

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were wearing new uniforms. The troops stated that this was their first visit to Germany and that they were to be quartered in the Zieten Kaserne in Potsdam.

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4. [redacted] Approximately 3,000 Soviet troops, recently arrived from Russia, were receiving training in early June 1947 at the troop maneuver area between Eiche, Bornim, and Grube (all Z-53), near Potsdam. In addition to learning the use of the model 26 carbine, the troops practiced with a new light automatic machine gun. This weapon, said to be a German invention completed by the Russians, fires 250 shots per minute. Only twelve of these guns were available in early June; an additional number were expected to be ready in September or October 1947.

5. [redacted] Soviet armor, described as the Third Guards Armored Corps, moved out of the Chrdruf (J-15) training grounds by rail in mid-June. The train, with ninety-four cars, was routed via Erfurt, Weissenfels, and Leipzig. Since several damaged tanks were shipped to a repair unit at APC 42059 in Jüterbog (J-69), it is believed that the "corps" may be in the vicinity of the latter city. This unit consisted of three armored brigades and two motorized infantry regiments, with artillery and AA guns. Two of the brigades were equipped with sixty Stalin tanks each; the third brigade had sixty T-34's and sixty JS-3's. Training consisted of firing from tanks and drilling with heavy weapons.

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[redacted] Comment: In a previous report, the composition was given as: three tank brigades, each with sixty tanks; two chemical regiments; one artillery regiment and one AA regiment; total strength, approximately 20,000 men. Tank strength was reported to be 180 TS-2's plus twenty T-34's.)

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